

**Notes of Economy, Skills & Culture O&S Committee Task and Finish Group Meeting**

**Implications of Savings**

**10 July**

**Committee Room 6, The Council House, 11am**

Present:

Members: Councillors Hunt, Iroh (Chair), Trickett, Singh Atwal

Attendees: Councillor Sharon Thompson, Councillor Saima Suleman, Chris Jordan, Philip Nell, Azhar Rafiq

Apologies: Councillor Meirion Jenkins

Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor Lisa Trickett declared an ‘other’ interest in relation to Saving 70, as she is a director of a Business Improvement District (BID).

Key points from discussion with Members of the Economy, Skills & Culture O&S Committee:

- All points are picked up against individual savings below.

Savings Number	Saving Description	Key Issue / Comments on Implications of Savings	Recommendations
106	Service re-design and restructure Savings Target	Majority of savings were staffing (25% total service - 60 through voluntary redundancy and just over	Seeks assurances that the impact of any future growth in housebuilding and

	2024/25: 4.365 2025/26: 5.325	40 in deleted vacancies). No identified impact on service delivery at this stage. Future risks: New Government policy on growth and housebuilding may lead to increased planning applications. Identified as a significant potential risk due to reduced capacity and loss of specialist skills through redesign. Also need to factor in the end of Clean Air Zone (CAZ) funding which is being used to support the Route to Zero team as a potential negative pressure. Staff in that team will no longer be fully funded from 2025 through ringfenced CAZ funds.	economic development on the Council's capacity to manage planning applications in light of the staff reductions through the current redesign will be monitored
109	Income generation (combination of lease and rent reviews for commercial portfolio and increase in planning fee income) Savings Target 2024/25: 0.500 2025/26: 1.000	Currently assessed as Amber. Increase in planning fees offset by lower than anticipated planning applications. Rent reviews of commercial portfolio have not been undertaken for some years. High volume of assets has impacted upon progress to complete these. No identified impact on businesses with rent reviews at this stage. Key points to consider when reviewing rents for assets rented by community organisations – anomalies in system. A coherent and equitable approach needs to be in place, so everyone is treated fairly. Social value needs to be considered as part of this. Future risks: Costs related to Judicial Reviews.	Requests a fair and equitable approach is introduced for all Council owned assets rented to community organisations
107	Reduction in Central Administrative Buildings (CAB) Premises (Saving from operating	Woodcock Street – pending exchange. Decision to dispose agreed by Cabinet Committee – Property.	Supports the approach to maximise office accommodation and meeting facilities in

	costs when the buildings are decommissioned) Savings Target 2024/25: 1.000 2025/26: 2.325	Two other assets have been identified for disposal. Relocation of staff to Council House is not a long term solution. Accessibility requirements for staff have been addressed. Approaches have been made to other key assets within the city (not Council but funded through public sector funds) to secure additional meeting space.	the city in buildings managed by organisations in receipt of public funds
108	European Affairs and Business Enterprise Teams to be self-financing and funded from external grant Savings Target 2024/25: 0.800 2025/26: 0.800	Assurances that funding will be secured to deliver this saving.	No recommendation
110	Reduction in supplies Savings Target 2024/25: 0.700 2025/26: 0.700	No additional points made.	No recommendation
61	Cultural Organisation Grant reductions Savings Target 2024/25: 0.630 2025/26: 1.261	Challenging reduction in budget. Engaged early with organisations to mitigate risks. No organisations have indicated they cannot operate on reduced budget. However, do anticipate an impact on their outreach activities. Propose it will be more effective to monitor impact after 12 months.	Commits to holding a single themed meeting on the impact of the Council's grant reductions to cultural organisations on the sector in the city  Requests the Council works with partner organisations to explore how a more sustainable approach can be developed for the arts and culture sector to thrive at a grassroots level in the city
62	Cease funding for cultural projects Savings Target 2024/25: 0.452 2025/26: 0.487	Exploring how to secure funding from other sources for organisations to access as mitigation. Likely impact due to the profile that this will impact on grassroots diverse community projects.	

			Seeks assurances the support to the arts and culture sector is effectively built into the Council's proposal to the West Midlands Combined Authority for the Shared Prosperity Fund Local Place Plan
70	Changes to Business Improvement District Service Savings Target 2024/25: 0.167 2025/26: 0.190	On target.	No recommendation
57	Increase income from commercial events Savings Target 2024/25: 0.095 2025/26: 0.075	On target. Adopting more commercial approach supported by a new staff member from commercial background. New contract now in place to deliver income from the German Market for the first time. City Centre site rented for a music festival in August as a pilot.	No recommendation
60	Review Film Birmingham Savings Target 2024/25: 0.089 2025/26: 0.089	No additional points made.	No recommendation
63	Restructure culture delivery team Savings Target 2024/25: 0.089 2025/26: 0.089	On target.	No recommendation
76	Align Events & City Centre Teams – Refocus on contracted and commercial events Savings Target 2024/25: 0.400	On target. Links to saving 57 above. City Centre and Events team now has merged management. Although a reduction in managers, this enables a focus on contracted and commercial events.	No recommendation

	2025/26: 0.400		
158	Restructure culture delivery team Savings Target 2024/25: 0.025 2025/26: 0.025	On target.	No recommendation